

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3168

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, ID

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN CITIZENSHIP LAW NOT TO BENEFIT

CHINESE

1. INDONESIAN PARLIAMENT (DPR) MARCH 10 APPROVED AMENDMENT TO 1958 CITIZENSHIP LAW ALLOWING PERSONS TO REGAIN INDONESIAN CITIZENSHIP LOST DURING PERIOD OF STRAINED RELATIONS WITH NETHERLANDS 1958-63. AMENDMENT WILL BENEFIT SOME 4000 MOLUCCANS IN NETHERLANDS AND 1000 INDONESIANS IN SURINAM WHO DURING THOSE YEARS WERE UNABLE TO MEET LEGAL REQUIREMENT OF DECLARING EVERY TWO YEARS INTENTION TO MAINTAIN INDONESIAN CITIZENSHIP WHILE RESIDING ABOARD. THESE FORMER CITIZENS NOW HAVE ONE YEAR TO REPORT TO GOI REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE OR TWO YEARS IF THEY MUST GO TO A THIRD COUNTRY TO GOI REPRESENTATIVE. CITIZENSHIP RECOMMENCES ONE YEAR AFTER REPORTING.

2. DPR PASSAGE OF APPARENTLY SIMPLE AMENDMENT COMPLICATED
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BY CONCERN THAT OVERSEAS CHINESE MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE

OF OPPORTUNITY TO REGAIN PREVIOUS INDONESIAN CITIZENSHIP.
ALL FACTIONS IN DEBATE SPOKE AT LENGTH ON CHINESE
PROBLEM, AND FINAL WORDING OF AMENDMENT SPECIFICALLY
EXCLUDES THOSE PERSONS WHO CHOSE TO BECOME CITIZENS OF
ANOTHER COUNTRY, SUCH AS THE OVERSEAS CHINESE, AND THOSE
WHO DEMONSTRATED A LACK OF LOYALTY TO INDONESIA (DISSIDENT
SOUTH MOLUCCAN GROUPS).

3. COMMENT: WORDING OF AMENDMENT CONSTITUTES ONE MORE
ILLUSTRATION OF CONTINUING GOI EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN
STRICT CONTROL OVER ITS CHINESE RESIDENTS.
NEWSOM

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